

## **LB 1083 Report on Consumer Involvement**

Individuals and their families who have utilized Behavioral Health services in Nebraska, have asked over many years to be an active participant in determining services for themselves and to be a partner in Nebraska's system in order assist others. This vision from consumers is being realized in many states throughout the country, resulting in lower costs, better outcomes and more effective delivery of services.

Nebraska, with the passage of LB 1083, is transforming of its behavioral health system which calls for "consumer involvement as a priority in all aspects of service planning and delivery."<sup>1</sup> The state, as a means of fulfilling LB 1083's vision, will be developing consumer operated services i.e., WRAP, Individual Life Plan Coaches, and other changes.

The state's current consumer activities include:

- Funding for Peer Support Specialists in Day Support and ACT teams,
- Inclusion of consumers on planning and advisory committees and focus groups,
- Regional development of plans for involvement of consumers at the local level,
- Contracting with Nebraska consumer and advocacy organizations, (NAMI, MHA, Partners in Recovery),
- Sponsors state consumer conference for approximately eighty consumers with priority given to consumers who have not attended a conference.

LB 1083 authorized the state:

- To begin a transformation of its behavioral health system which calls for "consumer involvement as a priority in all aspects of service planning and delivery."<sup>1</sup>
- To hire a program administrator for consumer affairs, "The program administrator for consumer affairs shall be a consumer or former consumer of behavioral health services and shall have specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating to consumer directed behavioral health services, behavioral health delivery systems, and advocacy on behalf of consumers of behavioral health services and their families."<sup>2</sup>
- "The administrator of the division shall establish and maintain an office of consumer affairs within the division. The program administrator for consumer affairs shall be responsible for the administration and management of that office."<sup>3</sup>
- "Each regional behavioral health authority shall encourage and facilitate the involvement of consumers in all aspects of service planning and delivery within the region and shall coordinate such activities with the office of consumer affairs within the division."<sup>4</sup>
- "Each regional behavioral health authority shall establish and utilize a regional advisory committee consisting of consumers, providers, and other interested parties."<sup>5</sup>

- “ The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health is created.” “ The committee shall consist of .....(c) twelve consumers of behavioral health services or their family members.”<sup>6</sup>
- “ The State Committee on Substance Abuse Services is created.” “ The committee shall.....(c) promote the interests of consumers and their families.”<sup>7</sup>
- “ The State Committee on Problem Gambling is created.” “ The committee shall (d) promote the interests of consumers and their families.”<sup>8</sup>

Consumers will be involved in the development of regulations governing LB 1083 and will be an integral part of the Division’s statewide planning beginning in January. Consumers will be involved in the design of the planning process. The state will also address the basic supports that consumers will need to participate in this planning process, i.e. travel, equipment, etc. With this plan, the Division will begin aggressively moving toward the fulfillment of LB 1083’s vision of “consumer involvement as a priority in all aspects of service planning and delivery.”

1. LB 1083 Section 3. (3) (d)
2. LB 1083 Section 5. (2)
3. LB 1083 Section 5. (3)
4. LB 1083 Section 8. (2)
5. LB 1083 Section 8. (2)
6. LB 1083 Section 14. (1) (c)
7. LB 1083 Section 15. (1), (2) (c)
8. LB 1083 Section 16. (1), (2) (d)